



# St. Pius Calling...

## Vacation Bible School Fun

By Diane Shamory

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) had the theme—  
**Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.**

We were blessed with over thirty children attending! Our VBS had five fun stations: games, bible, imagination, crafts, and snacks with kid's videos. Each evening we take pictures for a fun presentation called *Spotlight* that tells a story using their photos. The children sang beautiful songs that reminded them of God's awesome power that rescues us! There's a lot of work and planning that goes into VBS. Over the last several years we have used and shared our VBS resources. Sacred Heart and Saint George have been sharing the cost of the VBS kits and their awesome decorations. We add more props, and when we're all done, we pass them onto another church in New Columbia.

Behind the scenes we have many helpers with picking up decorations from the other church, setting them up, and getting our VBS rooms ready. Saint Pius X had a shipwrecked island, a jungle, and ocean and Bible story rooms decorated for our theme.

Our VBS station leaders and crew members took the time to help make Vacation Bible School fun for our kids. They helped teach and guide them every night and were indeed a wonderful blessing! The kids loved the songs and our "fishy" jokes. On the last night of VBS, we were ready to leave our



shipwrecked island with the assurance that God would rescue us! A great big THANKS to everyone who donated their time, money, and efforts to make sure that our children would have Vacation Bible School. Our biggest

thanks goes to the Knights of Columbus for their donation that made it possible for the kids to come for free.

### Basket Bonanza by Donna Politza

How would you like to win a new kayak? How about a barbecue grill complete with accessories? Or perhaps \$100.00? (Yes, a one hundred dollar bill!) Well, you can win any one or all of these items and many more wonderful things in the St. Pius X Themed Basket Raffle. Parishioners have donated many, varied gift baskets that include children's items as well as coveted gifts for the dog lovers or Coca Cola memorabilia for the collectors. It's easy to win! All you have to do is to buy tickets at the cost of \$1.00 apiece or ten tickets for \$5.00 in the Narthex of the Church before and after each Mass from July 21 - August 19. On the ticket write your name and phone number and then deposit the tickets in the basket container of your choice. All baskets will be on display, so you can shop for your dream basket. It's that simple, and you could win that sleek new kayak or any of the other varied baskets! Your prize is waiting, so get your tickets -Now!

## Pius Thoughts

From our Pastor, Fr. Pius

In all of our actions, whether hunting, being shipwrecked, playing the guitar or making good tasting foods we can always find an element of God's presence in our lives. Summer allows for the time to reflect on those simple things that bring grace. Sharing that with the community enriches all of us.

Enjoy your summer!



## Pierogies and Crab Soup

Mike Schlenker interview by Carol Parowski

**Q. What do 250 dozen pierogies and 25 gallons of crab soup have in common?**

**A. Both are sold at the St. Pius X booth at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival.**

This hometown event began 40 years ago and SPXC joined the fun about 25 years ago when Fr. Joe thought it would be a good fundraiser. Initially the pierogies were made and cooked at the parish kitchen and delivered downtown in batches throughout the day. Things evolved over the years to purchased pierogies cooked on site by the K of C in 30 lb of butter and 50 lb of onions to streamline the process. Jack Kircher is the *Crab Soup Chef* with the motto of "often imitate, never duplicate" guiding the recipe. Gratefully, most of the soup ingredients are donated by local businesses.

The meaning of the event for SPXC has evolved as well from fundraiser to community spirit and congregation builder as the handful of initial dedicated workers expanded to about 100 shift workers to share the comradarie and outreach. Many teens earn community service hours while learning new communication and customer service skills while they interact with the Knights and the dozens of other volunteers who make it happen. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex in September for this year's event which is on Saturday, September 22.

Since 2005, Mike Schlenker has coordinated this event which often happens to fall on his and Michelle's wedding anniversary.

Take notice that in 2019, the market Street festival falls on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mike and Michelle hope to celebrate together for a change! Volunteers take note and be prepared to step up. ☺



# ????? ..... GIT UR BUCK .....?????

By Joyce Seno

Ahhh, the mantra of the Snyder County Hunter... Did ya git ur buck yet? You cannot live in Snyder County and not hear this question every fall. My husband Michael came from Cambria County and thought that perhaps every buck in the woods had a nametag that connected it with the assigned hunter. So what does this have to do with the Catholic Church? Well a buck is a male deer. Another name for a male deer is a stag. And a Stag is an early church symbol for Christ.

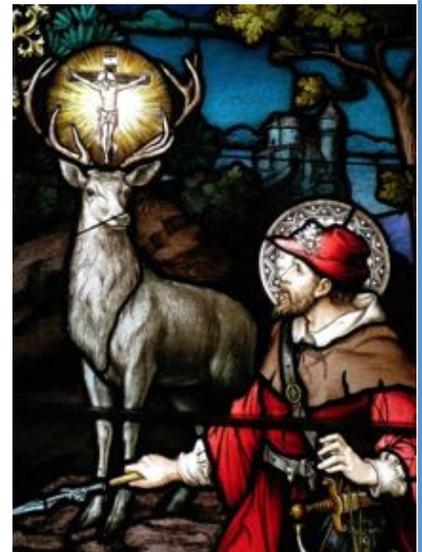


At the beginning of the second century (around the year AD 110- that is a long time ago) there lived in Rome a man named Placidus. Placidus was a great hunter and loved to spend spare time hunting with his soldiers.

One day while chasing some fleeing stags with his hunting buddies, one of the stags broke from the group and took off on his own. Placidus turned his horse and followed the lone stag which led him deeper and deeper into the forest. Finally, the stag stopped at the top of a mountain.

Placidus became transfixed by the stag. Between the antlers was a bright light and within the light was what appeared to be a cross. On the cross was the image of a man. Then Placidus heard a man's voice coming from the stag. *"Oh Placidus, why are you pursuing me? For your sake, I have appeared to you in an animal. I am the Christ, the only True God."*

Placidus, filled with fear, fell from his horse. When he recovered, Jesus explained who he was. Placidus said, *"Lord, I believe you are the Christ, and that you made all things, and that you convert the erring."* Placidus converted and his baptismal name is Eustace.



Eustace, now known as the patron saint of hunters, was martyred in the year AD118, which would have been under the papal reign of Pope St. Sixtus I. How Eustace and his family died is unknown. <http://www.catholic365.com/article/9024/st-eustace-the-hunter-and-the-magnificent-stag.html>

## Why Catholic?

In the late '80s, Sherrill, my wife, joined the Methodist church. Since things were not going too well, I joined her shortly after. A few years later, Sherrill went on the "Walk to Emmaus," the Methodist equivalent to the "Cursillo." I had no interest in that, but our Pastor started a praise and worship service where I could sing and play guitar. I was asked to lead singing at an Emmaus training session and was offered \$25 for my effort. I refused the money. The organizer said, "Ok, we'll put a deposit on your walk to Emmaus." On that weekend I said, "Yes!" to Jesus,

and asked sarcastically, "Now what are you going to do with me?" Six months later I was doing Prison ministry in Allenwood Federal Prison. That ministry continues after 20 years.

Sherrill started to attend St. Monica in Sunbury. Two years later, I started to think about going with her. Would I have any regrets? I was not happy to leave the "Praise and Worship Service," my friends in Emmaus, and my prayer partners in a few small groups. I also did not look forward to the normal complaints: structured prayer, confession, and acceptance of tradition. Since those days, all these regrets have been eliminated, by new friends and five different priests. Still I wonder, with all those negative thoughts (and more)? Why in the world would one become Catholic?

I have only one reason. Every Sunday, Jesus shows up! Even better, He will show up every time that I accept His invitation to Mass. How am I? Blessed! ~Fred Grosse.

